



August 2009

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Important Dates

August 8th

History of Jamestown-
Presented by Joe
Sparagna, in the Carriage
Room, 8:30-9:45

August 10th

Special Event Committee
Meeting, Carriage Room.
Final planning for Red
White & Blue, and Wine
and Cheese!

August 15th

Red White and Blue Day
at Railtown! Local public
safety personnel avail-
able, and all service ori-
ented community mem-
bers in uniform ride free!

August 26th

Pinecrest Potluck- BBQ
starts at 5:30, but arrive
anytime!

September 12th

The Jamestown Jail, and
the Lumber Companies,
presented by Joe
Sparagna, in the Carriage
Room, from 8:30-9:45

September 15th- 12:30

All Hands Meeting at Tri-
Dam. Please call ahead
if you'll be attending for
lunch.

September 19th

Wine and Cheese
Train! Our Main
Fundraiser of the
Year. Volunteers
and Silent Auction
Items still needed.

Park Closures?

Last week, the Governor signed a revised Fiscal Year 2009-2010 state budget, based on the package of bills sent to him by the legislature on July 24th. In using his blue-pencil veto authority, the Governor exacted an additional \$6.2 million cut to the state park system, bringing the total General Fund cut to \$14.2 million. It is expected (and referenced in the Governor's budget summary) that more than 100 state parks will be closed.

Each district in the state is being asked to work with their local communities to maximize partnership possibilities and look at options for closing parks part-time, or seasonally. Increased park fees are also being discussed.

In order to give park managers, statewide, maximum opportunity to explore options, no decisions will be announced until after Labor Day.

Railtown 1897 State Historic Park effectively operates with a partnership arrangement with the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, as well as maximizing use of volunteers. In addition, a variety of strategies are being considered in order to increase revenue and decrease expenses. District closures have still not been announced, but we can expect that if we stay open, we will experience many changes in how we operate.

We are scheduling an **All-Hands meeting** for **September 15, 2009, at 12:30, at the Tri-Dam shops**. More information should be available at that time.

If you are not able to attend, notes from the meeting will be emailed/sent out later that day.

Sewing Car

We will be using the sewing car for some of the upholstery work on the Sierra No. 3 cab seats. Curator Lisa Smithson would also like to explore the option of being able to complete other upholstery and shade repairs using this space. We recognize that there may be many of you who may use this space and have an opinion on how it should be set up. Please contact Lisa (details on back of this newsletter), if you'd like to be involved in any space revisions.

Annual Wine and Cheese Benefit

5th Annual
Wine & Cheese
Benefit

TO SUPPORT RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

PARTICIPATING WINERIES:

- Bodega Del Sur
- Brice Station
- French Hill
- Gianelli
- Ironstone
- Laraine Wines
- Muir Legacy
- Tom Bender-O'Brien's Market Wine Bar
- Zucca

RAILTOWN 1897
State Historic Park
JARESTOWN, CALIFORNIA

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19, 2009 ■ 4-7 P.M. ■ TICKETS: \$25

A highlight of the year, at Railtown, is the Wine and Cheese Train.

For a ticket price of \$25, the gates open at 4:00, a beautiful time of the day at Railtown. Guests enjoy sampling of wine from local wineries, live music, and perusing the silent auction items.

At 5pm, guests board the train. Wine sampling continues, on board, as well as an amazing cheese selection, presented by O'Brien's market.

More music on board, beautiful late-summer scenery, food and wine. What more could you ask for!

Join us as a Volunteer, or take the day off and be a guest! It's a great event.

Volunteer Opportunities

Each year as we enter into the hot 'dog days' of summer, we find ourselves short of volunteers to car host, especially on Sundays. It could be the weather. It could be many folks attend church or are on extended out of town vacations. If you're a daring and brave soul who enjoys interpreting our history to our guests, consider Sundays. It's a marvelous day and it's a great chance to hone your public speaking skills. With the 2901 Observation Car running each weekend, you can also have a turn at interpreting this fascinating car made by Pullman. A quick guide is being prepared by Lisa Smithson our Park Curator to help.

Call Dave Rainwater on the volunteer hot line 984-4408 or sign up on the sign up sheets ahead of time in the Crew Caboose. **If you prefer a half-day shift, we can accommodate!**

Historical Information Available

Filming for over 230 movies, TV shows and commercials has occurred at Railtown since 1919. Monty Youngborg has compiled a list of the films still available, either in our Depot Store or on Netflix. Also available is a list of 'Chispas' with articles of great interest related to the Sierra Railroad and our gold mining area. You may view them in a binder kept in the office and/or order them from the Tuolumne County Museum in Sonora for \$3.00 each. Thank you Monty for all your research !

Volunteers of the Month-*John and Natalie Stier*



This month's Volunteers of the Month are **John and Natalie Stier**. As a couple they average over 120 combined hours per month of volunteer service to the park! When asked John what he likes most about Railtown, he jokingly said "it keeps me off the streets" but in a more sincere moment John said "we enjoy the family atmosphere and all the friendships that have developed over the years". John and Natalie have been childhood sweethearts since 1946 in Millbrae and were married in 1956.



John retired after 37 years as a production engineer from the Pyromet Corporation. He and Natalie moved to their new home in Twain Harte in 1999. His friend Ron Sloan and former co-worker Bob West convinced him to come out to Railtown and volunteer. You can find him on any given Tuesday offering his talents in electrical, carpentry, automotive repair or machinery work. On weekends John does Car Hosting and also enjoys giving Roundhouse Tours.

Natalie is always involved in hospitality and greeting at the park. She is most often found helping the Railtown ladies make lunch for the Tuesday work crews, or on weekends, selling popcorn out on the platform. She volunteers as the unofficial 'dog sitter' for guests who can't take their pets on the train. She also works making craft items for the Christmas boutique and is continually crocheting the famous 'scrubber' (a hot seller) made out of nylon net and yarn.

Three cheers for John and Natalie and thank you for all you do for our State Park!



Dave Tadlock 2008



A Dear Friend and Volunteer Passes



Early Monday morning, July 27th, Joe Still lost his battle with cancer.

Our hearts go out to Beverly and all his family.

Joe has been a valued volunteer since 2001, working as a Car Host, Yardmaster, Tour Guide and Tuesday Maintenance worker.

His wife Beverly also volunteers in hospitality and as Ticket Agent. Joe retired from the appliance repair business and he and Bev worked as campground hosts and managers for many years. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. We'll miss you Joe !

Test your Knowledge!

The winner of a random drawing of the correct answers will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the Depot Store! The winner and correct answers will be announced in our next issue of the Turntable. Drawing will be held at lunch on **Tuesday, August 25th.**

1. What does Hetch Hetchy mean?
2. What steam locomotive was called a "McArthur" during WWII?
3. Who invented the Fresno scraper?
4. Which of the following best describes 'Captain' Neville
 - A. Owner of the Rawhide Mine
 - B. Owner of the Neville Hotel
 - C. Owner of a teamster company
 - D. All of these
5. True or False: Baldwin locomotives were built in Lima, Ohio.
6. Railtown 1897 State Historic Park is ___ acres.
7. What year was the Yosemite Short Line discontinued?
8. True or False: The Rogers locomotive #3 from Arizona was originally a wood burner which was converted to oil?
9. What year did the Sierra Railway complete the Angels Camp line?
10. What is the top engine speed of the Sierra #3?

Fine print: entries must be in Dave's hot hands by midnight on August 24th to be eligible for the drawing (including digitally). But, please do not wake him up. Dave is the final arbiter of the correctness of the answers, but semantic nitpicking is permitted, and may impact eligibility. Employees and relations of Dave are not eligible. Remember, its not who you know, but what you know. Need not be present to win. Void where prohibited.



Pats on the Back

Sent to the State Parks Website

Hello,

We took the steam train at Railtown last Saturday. The volunteer guide in our car, whose name was Dave [Connery], was FANTASTIC. He absolutely made the trip for us, with his stories and history of the rail line. It has been a long time since I've had such an excellent guide for any activity I've done. I was spellbound! Great job Dave! Ellen Sentovich Oakland, CA

From Our own Lori

To All My Railtown Friends Words cannot express my heartfelt thanks for all your support at the benefit. Knowing how much all of you have expressed your love, concern and prayers is a very humbling experience. Thank you all my Railtown family and friends. I am looking forward to returning to work as soon as possible, and be with you all again. God Bless. Lori Brandon-Rainwater

Bits and Pieces

New Engine Crew Promotional Plan Available

The Railroad Operations Management Group has been meeting monthly to review and develop policies for the Railroad Operations at Railtown. The written promotional policy is now available at <http://Railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers/default.aspx> (or request a printed version from Dave R.) This is the same online document site where the newsletters and other documents are stored.

Pinecrest Potlucks

A Railtown summer tradition. August 26th and September 23rd. Bring item to BBQ, place setting, chair and dish to share. Arrive anytime, BBQ starts at 5:30. On the left, after the 2nd bathroom.

Railtown Ladies Luncheon

The Railtown 1897 Ladies will hold their monthly luncheon at Applebee's on August 6th at 11:30am. They hope to see you all there !

Craft Group Cancelled Until Further Notice

The monthly craft work day for the holiday craft sale has been cancelled until further notice, due to lack of participation. If you meant to participate, but have only been procrastinating, confident in the knowledge that November is months away, please feel free to discuss with Natalie Stier.

Help Wanted– Typing Project

If you are interested in a typing project (or have command of your scanner and OCR software), please see Kim Baker, who has a few policy documents related to Railroad Operations, which need to be typed for revisions. Also looking for a volunteer to take good notes at the all-hands meeting.





RAILTOWN 1897
State Historic Park

PO Box 1250

Jamestown, CA 95327

Return Service Requested

TO:



Docent Hotline-for updates and information
(209)-984-4408

Share point website- <http://Railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers/default.aspx>



Railtown Paid Staff Contact Information

Newsletter submissions: RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov

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Joe Bispo , Asst. Railroad Operation Manager	984-8718	jbispo@parks.ca.gov
Virginia Stamm , Admin Assistant	984-3953	vstamm@mlode.com
Rob Buchanan , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-3115	rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov
Danny Taylor , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-3115	dtaylor@parks.ca.gov
Dave Rainwater , Park Aid (and Docent Coordinator)	984-4408	darainwater@parks.ca.gov
Lisa Smithson , State Park Curator I	984-8719	lsmithson@parks.ca.gov

Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request